

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, ECOM, AR

SUBJECT: LABOR AND THE MONDELLI

SUMMARY. WIDESPREAD, GRASS ROOTS LABOR OPPOSITION TO MONDELLI ECONOMIC PLAN CONTINUES, BUT MAJORITY OF STRIKING WORKERS HAVE RETURNED TO WORK, FOR TIME BEING, TO AWAIT OUTCOME NATIONAL LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS. UOM LEADER MIGUEL IS PUSHING FOR INTERVENTION OF BA PROVINCE IN EFFORT TO CLIP WINGS OF HIS MAJOR RIVAL, GOVERNOR CALABRO. END SUMMARY.

1. MAJORITY OF STRIKING WORKERS RETURNED TO WORK MARCH 15, BUT THEY AND THEIR LEADERS REMAIN ON "STATE OF ALERT" AND/OR "IN CONTINUOUS SESSION". INDICATIVE OF SITUATION IS STATEMENT BY SANTA FE METAL WORKERS (UOM) SECGEN, WHO WARNED GOA HAD UNTIL END OF WEEK (MARCH 20) TO SATISFY WORKERS OR WOULD "FACE INCREASED CLIMATE OF PROTESTS". MARCH 12 ATTEMPTED WORKERS RALLY TO PROTEST PLAN WAS FRUSTRATED BY POLICE WHO TOPPED BUS CARAVANS AND "PERSUADED" WORKERS TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. POLICE UTILIZED TEAR GAS TO DISPERSE WORKERS CONGREGATING FOR MARCH FROM BARRIO ONCE, HEAVILY POPULATED WORKER DISTRICT WITHIN FEDERAL CAPITAL. METAL WORKERS ALIGNED WITH BA GOV CALABRO DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN MARCHES BUT DID CARRY OUT STRIKES OR WORK STOPPAGES.

2. BA GOV CALABRO'S STRONG ATTACK AGAINST MONDELLI PLAN FURTHER

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EXACERBATED INTERNAL UOM RELATIONS AND HAS LED TO INCREASED PRESSURE

FOR GOA INTERVENTION OF PROVINCE. NATIONAL UOM SEC GEN LORENZO MIGUEL CHARGED CALABRO WITH INSTIGATION OF STRIKES AND WORK STOP-PAGES IN PROTEST PLAN, AND IS REPORTEDLY ARGUING THAT CALABRO'S DISOBEDIENCE TO GOA DIRECTIVES JUSTIFIES INTERVENTION. HOWEVER, GOA HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY INTERVENED PROVINCES AS IT WAS UNCERTAIN THAT IT HAD THE ABILITY TO ENFORCE SUCH A DECISION. IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT IT WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH IT AT THIS TIME EITHER SHOULD CALABRO RESIST, AS WIDELY ANTICIPATED. WITH FULL CONTROL OF MAJORITY OF UNIONS IN PROVINCE, AND OF THE PROVINCIAL POLICE, CALABRO APPEARS IN A STRONG POSITION.

3. COMMENT. MOST LIKELY COURSE OF EVENTS FOR THIS WEEK IS HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL/UNION MANEUVERING, WITH THE RESTLESS WORKERS REMAINING ON THE SIDELINES AWAITING RESULTS. ALTHOUGH OUTCOME IS STILL UNCLEAR, GOA HAS ALREADY GIVEN EVIDENCE OF FURTHER BACKING DOWN. ON MARCH 12 THE MINDEFENSE AGREED TO SUBSTANTIAL WAGE INCREASES FOR CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF ARMED FORCES. IT COULD BE A PRELUDE TO ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS.
HILL

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